



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## School Committee Minutes 10/12/2004

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2004**

**Present:** Paul Schlichtman, Chair  
Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair  
Martin Thrope, Secretary (@8:00)  
Barbara Goodman

Joani LaMachia  
Suzanne Owayda  
Sue Sheffler

Superintendent: Kay Donovan  
CFO: Rob Addelson  
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry  
Sp. Ed. Director Marilyn Bisbicos

Call to order: 7:30

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Judi Paradis addressed the Committee with concerns over the lack of certified librarians in the elementary schools pointing out that Arlington has been ranked deficient in almost every category by the Massachusetts School Library Media Association. Ms. Paradis requested that the school committee give a real consideration and priority to the restoration of library services in APS and to place a certified librarian in each elementary school.

### **STATE ISSUES**

“ Senator R. Havern, J. Marzilli, A. Paulsen reviewed the issues impacting state and local funding for the next fiscal year. The Legislators discussed and pointed out three driving factors that will affect funds at the local level:  
“ The Supreme Court Decision  
“ The reduction of the income tax and its ramifications at the local level in terms of local aid  
“ Equalization of the Chapter 70 Formula

The School Committee and Legislators agreed that the State must be aware of the unique situation Arlington finds itself in terms of the lack of room for growth to increase revenues.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Financial Report (Policy D)**

Supt. Donovan reviewed the Comparative Analysis FY05 Adopted Budget vs. Preliminary FY05 Budget. The Superintendent does not recommend touching the available \$173,873.00 at this point due to unexpected expenses. i.e. 2 new group homes. Kay has requested additional funds from the DOE (Out of the Pothold Fund) to help offset some of the costs. Mrs. Donovan would like to appoint a few teachers at the high school due to the increased class size. The Superintendent will keep the School Committee informed as how the money is being spent and will provide a projection of funds.

#### **Minority Hiring Report (Policy GBAA)**

Mrs. Donovan reported that as of October 1<sup>st</sup> there are 76 new hires. There were more resumes received this year from minority candidates, as well as more minority candidates interviewed (13) and hired (3). The Committee would like to see data over the past couple of years on Minority Hiring.

#### **MCAS Results**

Dr. Gurry reported on the MCAS results for APS, and explained:

“ The new tests in 2004-2005 and the new MCAS reading and math tests.  
“ The Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) and its ramifications for reaching proficiency by 2014.  
“ Dr. Gurry gave a power point presentation reviewing Arlington's scores noting that APS are way above State average in all tests.  
“ She stated that the next challenge is to move students to advanced categories, (i.e. from Need Improvement to Proficient and from Proficient to Advanced levels).

**.. Japanese Delegation**

Supt. Donovan reported that the visit from the Japanese Delegation was a great success. The Delegation toured the Ottoson Middle School, Arlington High School, attended a dinner at the Town Hall in their honor and spent the day touring the State House and Boston with Senator Havern.

**Break**

**MASC DELEGATE/RESOLUTIONS**

After a brief discussion of resolution # 1 (School Committee and Suites Relative to the Selection and Termination of Principals) the consensus of the Committee was to vote not in favor of that resolution.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously  
Voted to name Suzanne Owayda as the School Committee Delegate at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously  
Voted to name Sue Sheffler as the Alternate Delegate at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

.. **Community Relations Committee** – Ms. LaMachia reported that Steve Mazzola is in the process of having the policy manual placed on line and will report on the progress at the next meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

.. Correspondence reviewed by Mr. Thrope noting correspondence expressing concern over the change of date for the teachers' professional development and suggesting the possibility of a policy on not changing school days once the calendar has been approved/voted by the Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously  
Voted to adjourn @ 10: 40 PM

Submitted by  
Karen Tassone  
Committee Secretary